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SEVERAL METHODS

Of READING the

Holy Scriptures

In PRIVATE;

Seriously RECOMMENDED to Consideration and Use.

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ERRATA.

TRuth *for* Truths *in the Preface.* Fenton *for* Penton, *p.* 3. Proclamations *for* Proclamation, *p.* 10. the *left out*, *p.* 17. *l.* 4. *from the Bottom.*

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE PREFACE.

THAT the Holy Scripture is of Divine Authority, and excellently fitted to afford all the Assistance we can need from it, in our Way towards Heaven, appears from the well-known Words of St. Paul, * All Scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for Reproof, for Correction, for Instruction in Righteousness, that the Man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good Works. * 2 *Tim.* 3. 16, 17.

That all Christians are to be plentifully stored with Knowledge thence, we may learn from the same Apostle's Exhortation, † Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all Wisdom. † *Col.* 3. 16.

The following Directions, which in the first Scheme of them, were Part of a Ser-

mon, preached long since, are designed to promote Plenty of Scriptural Knowledge: May the Blessing of God make them effectual to that excellent Purpose.

Nor will it, 'tis hoped, be thought Presumption, that an aged Clergyman humbly invites his younger Brethren at the same Time to give Attendance to || reading *the Holy Scripture; and to partake of the Satisfactions of doing so.*

|| 1 *Tim.* 4. 13. *See St.* Chrys. *on the Place.*

All I have farther to add, in way of Preface, is the following earnest Prayer; That the sincere and constant Belief, and Profession of the Truth, which the Blessed Book proposes; and the uniform persevering Practice of the Duties, which, upon the best Encouragements, it requires, may preserve this Church (which abundantly owns the * *Sufficiency of it for Salvation*) *in a safe, peaceable, flourishing Condition; the Bulwark of Reformed Religion, and the Glory of* Christendom, *till Time shall be no more. This is a Prayer in which all, who desire to be found faithful Ministers, or sound Members of it, will readily join with their*

* Article VI.

Most Obedient

Humble Servant.

METHODS of Reading the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

THE First of the Five Methods offered to Consideration in this small Tract is, To read in Private according to the Direction of the Church of *England* for the Publick Reading both of the Psalter, and the rest of the Holy Scripture; to be seen before the Liturgy.

By a due and careful Use of this Method, the Psalter or Book of *Psalms*, an admirable Treasury of Piety and Devotion, of Prayers and Praises, suitable to all Occasions, will be read over (except the *Psalms* for one or two Days in one Month, and those which give place to proper *Psalms*) Twelve times every Year. The most Part of the Old Testament will be read over once, and the New Testament (besides the Epistles and Gospels in their Course) thrice; except the Apocalypse, out of which there are only certain proper Lessons upon divers Feasts.

The Second Method is of larger Extent, and comprehends the former, and abundantly supplies what

what can be ſaid to be wanting in it: For it is, to read the whole Bible according to the Order of the ſeveral Books; and each Day, ſo many Chapters out of the Old and New Teſtament, as are neceſſary for reading both once every Year. This will certainly be done, and ſeveral Weeks ſooner, if every Day Three Chapters ſhall be read out of the Old Teſtament, or ſo many *Pſalms*, as are proportionable; and one out of the New. That out of the New it will be a Pleaſure to Clergymen, and other Scholars, to read in the Original *Greek*.

Nor will they think much to add the concurrent Hiſtory of both Teſtaments out of *Joſephus*, the Three firſt Books of *Euſebius*'s Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory, Archbiſhop *Uſher*'s Annals, and out of other Authors; particularly the Old and New Teſtament connected in the Hiſtory of the *Jews* and Neighbouring Nations, by Dr. *Prideaux*, the preſent Worthy Dean of *Norwich*, the 1ſt and 2d Parts. Let me ſubjoin *Bochartus*'s *Hierozoicon*, his *Phaleg* and *Canaan*; our Learned and Pious Biſhop *Cumberland*'s Scripture Weights and Meaſures; Dr. *Wells*'s Hiſtorical Geography of the Old and New Teſtament; and Mr. *Maundrel*'s Journey from *Aleppo* to *Jeruſalem*: the Second Edition.

Some Judicious, Learned and well-eſteemed Commentators, Paraphraſts and Criticks, whether ſuch as have written upon the whole Bible, or on particular Parts, will be proper to be conſulted as we go on; tho' not at the ſame time, or in the ſame yearly Courſe.

Such as follow, cannot well be omitted: *Fagius* upon the *Pentateuch*, *Munſter*, *Maſius* upon *Joſhua*, *Nicholas Fuller*, *Ainſworth* upon the *Penta-*

Pentateuch, *Gregory*, *Mede*, *Lightfoot*; Biſhop *Hall* upon the hard Texts of the whole Divine Scripture, *Grotius*, *Hammond*, *Pocock*, *Patrick*, Dr. *Lowth* upon the Prophet *Iſaiah*, *Jeremiah*, *Lamentations*, with his Directions for the profitable reading of the Holy Scriptures; *Stokes* upon the Twelve *Minor* Prophets; *Eraſmus*'s Paraphraſe in *Latin* upon the New Teſtament; the Learned Dr. *Whitby* on the ſame, and Mr. *Burkitt*, whoſe ſound, pious Matter greatly encourages to Peruſal; A Paraphraſe and Annotations upon all the Epiſtles of St. *Paul*.

If in the Uſe of theſe, and other Commentators and Criticks, ſpecial Reference ſhall be had to that Catalogue of Difficulties in Mr. *Fenton*'s *Apparatus*, p. 120. *&c.* it may be, it is hoped, of no ſmall Advantage.

Nor may this Courſe of Reading be juſtly thought too long, or too painful; nor will it by thoſe who ſhall remember, that at our Ordination we ſolemnly promiſed, that we would endeavour, the Lord being our Helper, to be diligent in reading the Holy Scriptures, and in ſuch Studies as help towards the Knowledge of the ſame; laying aſide the Study of the World, and the Fleſh.

The Third Method is, to read frequently ſome of the moſt remarkable Places of the Holy Scripture.

Let me recommend particularly theſe which follow: The Hiſtory of the Creation, and of the Fall of Man, and the Promiſes of Mercy through Chriſt; the Hiſtory of the Flood, and of the Deſtruction of *Sodom* and *Gomorrah*; and of the Sufferings and Advancement of *Joſeph*, in the Book of *Geneſis*. The

The Hiſtory of the Sufferings and Deliverance of the *Iſraelites*; as alſo of the Law, of the Ten Commandments, and of the terrible Manner in which it was publiſhed, in the Book of *Exodus*.

Read in the 24th Chapter of *Leviticus*, the Sin and Puniſhment of *Shelomith*'s Son, who blaſphemed the Name of the Lord, and curſed, and by God's Command was ſtoned to Death; the dreadful Puniſhment of Sedition and Rebellion, in the 16th Chapter of *Numbers*.

Read the 5th, 27th, 28th, and 29th Chapters of *Deuteronomy*; and in the three latter, the greateſt Diſcouragements from Sin, and a great Variety of Motives to good Living.

In the 17th Chapter of the 1ſt Book of *Samuel*, the Combat of *David* with *Goliath* is deſcribed, and the Particulars which concern it; being very fit to excite to Faith, and pious Confidence in God, who brings about his Purpoſes, to the Confuſion of proud and haughty Scorners, by the moſt unlikely Means.

Solomon's Choice of Wiſdom offers it ſelf to us, in the 3d Chapter of the Firſt Book of *Kings*; in the 13th, 17th and 18th Chapters, we may view ſeveral Illuſtrious Proofs of God's Providence, and of the ſpecial Care he takes of his Faithful Servants.

In the Firſt Book of *Chronicles*, the 28th Chapter, particularly at the 9th Verſe, we may read, and it will be worth the frequent reading, King *David*'s Charge before his Death to his Son King *Solomon*; *Know thou the God of thy Father, and ſerve him with a perfect Heart, and with a willing Mind. For the Lord ſearcheth all Hearts, and underſtandeth all the Imaginations of the Thoughts. If thou ſeek him, he will be found of thee*;

thee; but if thou forſake him, he will caſt thee off for ever.

In the 34th and 35th Chapters of the Second Book of *Chronicles*, we have the pious Life and ſorrowful Death of King *Joſiah*.

In the 36th Chapter, God's merciful Dealing with the People of the *Jews*, in the Warnings he gave them, the ill Returns they made, and the dreadful Effects of their Ingratitude, appearing in their incorrigible perſiſting in their Sins, are ſo ſet forth, as to be fit to affect and terrify.

The Confeſſion in the 9th Chapter of *Ezra* is very exemplary; as is the Religious Manner of reading and hearing the Law, in the 8th Chapter of *Nehemiah*, Ver. 5 and 6. *And Ezra opened the Book in the Sight of all the People — and when he opened it, all the People ſtood up: And Ezra bleſſed the Lord the great God: And all the People anſwered, Amen, Amen, with liſting up their Hands: And they bowed their Heads, and worſhipped the Lord, with their Faces to the Ground.* In the 9th Chapter of the ſame Book, there is a great Variety of extraordinary Remarkables. There is particularly a ſhort Hiſtory of God's Providence in his Dealings with the *Iſraelites*, and of the unworthy Return they made.

The Book of *Eſther*, where the Name of God is not once mentioned, contains many Inſtances, in which the Divine Wiſdom, Power and Goodneſs are brightly viſible.

In the Book of *Job*, read more frequently the 1ſt, the 2d, the 14th, the 19th, the 23d, the 27th, 31ſt, 32d, and 42d Chapters.

In the Book of *Pſalms*, the 1ſt, the 4th, 8th, 18th, 19th, 22d, 25th, 34th, 36th, 37th, the 50th, 73d, 84th, 90th, 91ſt, 103d, 107th,

118th, 119th, 146th; and the Seven Penitential *Psalms*, being the 6th, 32d, 38th, 51ſt, 102d, 130th, 143d.

In the *Proverbs*, the 1ſt, the 3d, the 6th, the 11th, 15th, 22d, 23d, 24th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 31ſt Chapters; in which laſt, the Deſcription of a good Wife, who is a great Bleſſing to her Husband, her Family, her Neighbours, well deſerves to be conſider'd.

The 1ſt and 2d Chapters of *Eccleſiaſtes* will teach us to underſtand the World; ſhew us, that the Sum Total of all is Vanity and Vexation of Spirit, Chap. 1. Ver. 14. The 12th Chapter will be a very proper Exerciſe of Childrens Memories; and contains ſuch important Truths and Duties, as it will be the Happineſs of Young and Old effectually to remember.

Remember now thy Creator in the Days of thy Youth. So the Chapter begins. *Let us hear the Concluſion of the whole Matter: Fear God, and keep his Commandments; for this is the whole Duty of Man: For God ſhall bring every Work into Judgment, with every ſecret thing, whether it be good or evil.* So it ends.

In the Prophet *Iſaiah*, let me recommend to your reading the 1ſt, 5th and 11th Chapters; the Hiſtory of the Defeat of *Sennacherib*; of the Sickneſs and Recovery of *Hezekiah*, in the 36th and following Chapters; the Account of God's Love to, and Care of his Church, in the 49th; the Reaſonableneſs of truſting in him, in the 51ſt; at the 12th and 13th Verſes of which, we find theſe Words: *I, even I am he that comforteth you. Who art thou, that thou ſhouldſt be afraid of Man that ſhall die, and the Son of Man that ſhall be made as Graſs? And forgetteſt the Lord thy Maker,*

ker, that hath ſtretched forth the Heavens, and laid the Foundations of the Earth? and haſt feared continually every Day, becauſe of the Fury of the Oppreſſor, as if he were ready to deſtroy? And where is the Fury of the Oppreſſor?

Beyond all the reſt, let me preſs the frequent and ſerious Reading of the 53d Chapter of this Prophecy; of which *John*, late Earl of *Rocheſter*, ſaid, when God had humbled him by Afflictions, and made him fit for Divine Inſtructions, That as he heard it read, he felt an inward Force, which did ſo enlighten his Mind, and convince him, that he could reſiſt it no longer. For the Words had an Authority, which did ſhoot like Rays, or Beams, in his Mind: So that he was not only convinced by the Reaſonings he had about it, which ſatisfied his Underſtanding; but by a Power which did ſo effectually conſtrain him, that he did ever after as firmly believe in his Saviour, as if he had ſeen him in the Clouds. *Some Paſſages of the Life and Death of* John *Earl of* Rocheſter, p. 141, 142.

In the Prophet *Jeremy*, read the 5th Chapter, particularly Verſe 22. *Fear ye not me, ſaith the Lord? Will ye not tremble at my Preſence, which have placed the Sand for the Bound of the Sea, by a perpetual Decree that it cannot paſs it; and though the Waves thereof toſs themſelves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not paſs over it?*

As alſo the 17th, 18th, and 31ſt Chapters: In the 31ſt, and following Verſes of which laſt, we have a large and excellent Account of that New Covenant referr'd to in the 8th Chapter of the Epiſtle to the *Hebrews*; and Chapter 35,

where a great Example of Obedience in the *Rechabites*.

From the 52d Chapter, by the terrible Sufferings of King *Zedekiah*, the greateſt of Men may learn to ſtand in Awe of God, to be humble, and moderate, and under a conſtant Senſe of the Uncertainty of the Enjoyments of this World; as alſo from King *Jehoiakin*'s Advancement in the 37th Year of his Captivity, not to deſpond, much leſs to deſpair, upon the long Continuance of Adverſity. And the Third Chapter of the ſame Prophet's *Lamentations*; the 3d, the 11th, 18th, 33d, 36th Chapters of the Prophet *Ezekiel*.

The 3d, the 4th, the 5th and 6th Chapters of the Prophet *Daniel*, cannot be ſeriouſly peruſed without Admiration at the diſcovering of God's Wiſdom, Power, Goodneſs and Juſtice, in the Tranſactions of his Providence; with which Mighty Kings were exceedingly affected, as it appears by their Words and Actions upon Record there. Let not the 12th Chapter be omitted.

In the Prophecy of the Prophet *Jonah*, we ſee enough to make the Diſobedient tremble, and the Penitent hope, under the moſt terrible Denunciations of Judgment. What can be more encouraging to ſuch as addreſs themſelves to God by faithful, fervent Prayer in their Afflictions, than that which we read at large in the 2d Chapter, particularly at the 2d Verſe? *I cried, by reaſon of my Affliction, unto the Lord, and he heard me: Out of the Belly of Hell cried I, and thou heardeſt my Voice.* Of the Prevalence of ſincere and general Repentance, the laſt Verſe of the 3d Chapter affords an Example never to be forgotten: *God ſaw their Works, that they turned from their evil*

evil Way; and God repented of the Evil that he had ſaid that he would do unto them, and he did it not.

The 5th, 6th, and 7th Chapters of the Prophet *Micah*; the Prophecy of *Habakkuk*, the 2d Chapter in ſpecial, Verſes 15 and 16th, againſt provoking to immoderate Drinking; and the 17th and 18th Verſes of the 3d Chapter, which excite to truſt in God in the moſt unfavourable Circumſtances, call for and will reward our Attention. Read the Prophecy of *Haggai*; in the 2d Chapter of which, at the 7th, 8th, and 9th Verſes we have an illuſtrious Prophecy of our Lord's Coming in the Time of the Second Temple; the Evidence of which cannot, but with great Abſurdity, be oppoſed by ſuch as own the Authority of the Scriptures of the Old Teſtament; out of which, what I further recommend to frequent Peruſal, you may read in the 5th, 12th, and 13th Chapters of *Zachary*; and in the Prophecy of *Malachi*, more eſpecially in the 3d Chapter at the 16th, 17th, and 18th Verſes, which ſhew us how Religion was exerciſed in the former Ages of the World, what Acceptance and what Encouragement it met with from God, and what Satisfaction it ſhall find at laſt.

In the New Teſtament read in the Goſpel of St. *Matthew* the Hiſtory of our Lord's Birth; his Sermon on the Mount, which ſtruck the Hearers with Admiration; he teaching them, as one having Authority far beyond that of the *Scribes*; add the Account of the laſt Judgment; of our Lord's Paſſion; and of the firſt Inſtitution of th Sacrament of his laſt Supper; and of his Glorious Reſurrection, which no Malice was ſubtle and powerful enough to defeat.

In

In the 6th Chapter of St. *Mark*, at the 20th Verſe, we have a ſhort but excellent Character of St. *John the Baptiſt*; and an Account of the Value *Herod* had for him; and in thoſe that follow of his Sufferings. In the firſt Chapter of St. *Luke* we have a farther Account of that admirable Man; as alſo a Relation of the Notice the Bleſſed Virgin had from God, by the Angel *Gabriel*, that ſhe was to be the Mother of our Lord; and of the humble Manner in which ſhe received the Divine Meſſage. In the 2d Chapter we have the moſt comfortable Proclamation of our Lord's Birth, by a Heavenly Herald, and the Celebration of it by the Heavenly Hoſt.

In the 4th Chapter every pious Soul will delight to read the Victory our Lord obtained by the Sword of the Spirit over the great Enemy of Mankind, after he had by Faſting prepared himſelf for the great Encounter. The 15th Chapter preſents us with the very affecting Parable of the Prodigal Son; in which we ſee the Miſery his Wickedneſs brought him to; the happy Courſe he reſolv'd upon and took, when his Sufferings had brought him to himſelf; and the Reception he met with from his Father, to the great Encouragement of all truly penitent Sinners.

The different Conditions of *Dives* and *Lazarus*, which we cannot fail to read in the 16th Chapter, let us ſee, how much it concerns us, while we have Opportunity, to take care that we come not to that Place of Torment; where there is no Relief to be had, and from whence there is no Removal.

The Example of the penitent Thief may be read at large at the 40th and Two following Verſes of the 23d Chapter; and in the next our

Lord's

Lord's moſt encouraging Anſwer to that Petition, admirable for the Faith that appears in it, which he offered to our Lord then hanging upon the Croſs; *and he ſaid unto* Jeſus, *Lord, Remember me when thou comeſt into thy Kingdom*; and Jeſus ſaid, *Verily, I ſay unto thee, to Day ſhalt thou be with me in Paradiſe.*

In the Goſpel of St. *John* read often the 1ſt, 3d, 5th, 6th, and 11th Chapters; in the 11th particularly the Hiſtory of the Reſurrection of *Lazarus* *, the Fourth Day after he had been buried; an Example excellently fitted to confirm our Faith, and encourage our Hope of a Reſurrection.

* τετραῆμι Ο. Ed. vj. 39.

Read the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 17th Chapters; in the laſt of them, we have our Lord's Divine Prayer for his Diſciples, and other Chriſtians, and eſpecially for that Unity, by the want of which *Chriſtendom* hath ſo frequently, ſo long, and ſo dreadfully ſuffered; and doth at preſent, to the Grief of all good Chriſtians, ſuffer.

In the 21ſt Chapter the Proof our Lord required of St. *Peter*'s Love to him, the Feeding of his Lambs and Sheep, deſerves to be conſider'd in a more ſpecial Manner by thoſe, whoſe Office requires it of them.

The 1ſt, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Chapters of the *Acts* of the Apoſtles will encourage us to read them frequently, by the Account they give of the primitive Church; the way of living in it, after Admiſſion into it by Baptiſm; the Manner in which God appeared for it; of the Actions and Sufferings of the Apoſtles; and of the firſt Martyr St. *Stephen*; whoſe excellent Apology, whoſe pious and charitable Death, and

the

the Encouragement he had from Heaven to undergo it, will be read to the great Satisfaction of all good Chriſtians. Add the 10th Chapter of the ſame Book, wherein we have the Character and Example of *Cornelius* the Centurion; the ſpecial Notice God took of his Prayers and Alms, and an Account of his Converſion to Chriſtianity, by the Miniſtry of St. *Peter*; whom he ſent for by Divine Direction. In the 11th Chapter read St. *Peter*'s Apology for himſelf, after he had been with, and had preach'd to the *Gentiles*; the Miſſion of *Barnabas*, his Character and Succeſs, and an Example of Primitive Charity. In the 12th Chapter, we have the Death of St. *James*; the wonderful Deliverance of St. *Peter*, upon the Prayers of the Church; and the remarkable Death of *Herod* the Perſecutor, who was ſmitten by an Angel, becauſe he gave not God the Glory; ſo as to be eaten to Death with Worms. In the 16th, the Sufferings of St. *Paul* and *Silas*; the Occaſion of them, and the comfortable Manner in which they underwent them; their Deliverance, and the Jailor of *Philippi*'s Converſion will always be a great Entertainment to pious Chriſtians. In the 17th, St. *Paul*'s Sermon in the Court of the *Areopagites*, to the *Athenians*, particularly about the Day of Judgment; and the Acceptance it met with, ought to be ſeriouſly conſidered. St. *Paul*'s Diſcourſe at *Miletus* to the Elders of the Church, whom he ſent for from *Epheſus*, is ſuch, as well deſerves to be conſtantly before the Eyes of the Clergy, as preſenting them with an Example, which to have followed will be Matter of Joy to all Eternity. In the 24th Chapter, St. *Paul*'s Diſcourſe

before

before *Felix*, and therein, the Account of his Faith, Hope, and Practice; and his Apology before King *Agrippa* in the 26th, wherein there is a Relation of his miraculous Converſion, and of the Deſign upon which he was ſent to the *Gentiles*; are worthy of the moſt ſerious Thoughts.

The Preſervation and Deliverance of St. *Paul*, and of thoſe that ſailed with him, upon his Account, in the 27th Chapter, will much encourage good Chriſtians to Dependance upon God, in the greateſt Difficulties and Dangers of this Life.

In the Epiſtle to the *Romans* read the firſt Chapter, more eſpecially the 4th Verſe, concerning our Lord's Reſurrection; and the 20th, concerning the Knowledge of God by the Light of Nature; the 8th Chapter concerning the Influence and Aſſiſtance of the Holy Spirit; the Death, Reſurrection, and Interceſſion of our Lord: The 12th, where we have a great Variety of Chriſtian Duties briefly enumerated, and ſo eaſily to be remembred; the 13th, where the great and neceſſary Duty of Subjection to the higher Powers, *not only for Wrath*, *but for Conſcience ſake*, is more eſpecially required, as alſo that Love which is the fulfilling of the Law.

In the Firſt Epiſtle to the *Corinthians*, the 1ſt Chapter, the 2d, the 3d, and 6th, the 10th at the 16th Verſe, about the Sacrament of our Lord's Supper; and the 31ſt, about doing all to God's Glory, call for a ſpecial Regard. In the 11th Chapter, the Inſtitution of that Holy Sacrament; our Duty to prepare for receiving it, by examining our ſelves; and the Danger of receiving it unworthily, are plainly ſet before us, and ought to be frequently peruſed.

In the 13th Chapter we have an Account of the Neceſſity, and excellent Properties of Charity; in the 15th, the Proofs of that fundamental and exceedingly comfortable Article of the Reſurrection from the dead; and the Account of the Manner in which the Bodies of good Chriſtians ſhall be raiſed; and the Influence the Doctrine of the Reſurrection ought to have upon us, at the laſt Verſe, require our Eyes and Thoughts.

In the 2d Epiſtle, mindful of the Brevity I deſign, let me only recommend the 4th, 5th, and 10th Chapters, as treating of eternal Things; of the laſt Judgment, and the new Creature, which muſt make it happy to us; and of Reconciliation to God, who was in Chriſt, reconciling the World to himſelf; which otherwiſe muſt have been wholly under his Wrath for ever. And the laſt of the Three, as treating of our Spiritual Warfare and Armour, and the Effects of it in the 3d, 4th, and 5th Verſes, in a very uncommon Manner.

In the Epiſtle to the *Galatians*, the 20th Verſe of the 2d Chapter, concerning the Apoſtle's being crucified with Chriſt, and yet living; the latter Part of the 5th, where the Works of the Fleſh, and the Fruits of the Spirit are reckon'd up; and the Ten firſt Verſes of the 6th Chapter, where are many choice Exhortations, invite us to diligent Reading.

In the 5th and 6th Chapters of the Epiſtle to the *Epheſians*, we have a ſhort View of the Relative Duties of Husbands and Wives; Parents and Children; Maſters and Servants; which ſuch ought continually to read and think on. The 6th Chapter ſupplies us with a Relation of that whole Armour, which every good Chriſtian will be glad to read of, and careful to provide and put on, that

that he may be able to ſtand againſt the Wiles of the Devil.

The whole Epiſtle to the *Philippians*, the devout Chriſtian will often read.

The 3d and 4th Chapters of the Epiſtle to the *Coloſſians* agree with the 5th and 6th Chapters of the Epiſtle to the *Epheſians*, as to relative Duties; and the 3d affords much Encouragement to read it, as to other Particulars from the 1ſt to the 18th Verſe; where the Account of Relative Duties begins; and is continued to the 2d Verſe of the following Chapter.

In the 4th Chapter of the Firſt Epiſtle to the *Theſſalonians* from the 13th Verſe, there is a Diſcourſe concerning Death, under the Notion of Sleep; and of our Lord's ſecond Coming, and the Manner of it, continued in the 5th Chapter, and there followed by many Exhortations to Duties, the Performance of which will adorn a Chriſtians Life, and a proper Prayer or Wiſh. The 1ſt and 2d Epiſtles to *Timothy*, and that to *Titus*, are in a ſpecial Manner recommended to the Reading of Clergymen; who may there, as in a clear Glaſs, ſee their Duty; may be furniſhed with the beſt Canons, Rules, and Directions, with Reference to Doctrine and Life; to themſelves and their Families; to the Worſhip of God, Eccleſiaſtical Government, and the Diſcipline of the Church.

The Epiſtle to *Philemon* contains an affectionate Addreſs to him from St. *Paul*; recommending *Oneſimus*, whom, of an unprofitable Servant, Converſion to the Chriſtian Religion had made uſeful to his Maſter, and to the Apoſtle; as it will make all thoſe that attain to the ſame Happineſs

pineſs far more ſerviceable than otherwiſe they could have been.

In the Epiſtle to the *Hebrews* the 1ſt Chapter, concerning the Divine Excellency of our Lord, *who is the Brightneſs of his Father's Glory, and the expreſs Image of his Perſon*: The 4th and the 6th, where are many excellent Things; the 8th, the 9th and 10th, concerning the new Covenant, and the Bleſſed Mediator of it; the 11th, wherein we are encouraged to the Exerciſe of Faith by the great Things it hath done; by the glorious Triumphs it hath been honoured with; the 12th, wherein we have an Exhortation to Patience from the Example of our Lord; where the Advantages of Affliction, and the Neceſſity of Peace and Holineſs are ſet before us, and particularly call for our Attention. The Epiſtle of St. *James* hath many Remarkables in it about Joy under Afflictions; living ſuitably to our Profeſſion; joining Works with Faith, concerning the Tongue and the Government of it; the Uncertainty of the World; Behaviour in Sickneſs and Affliction; beſides much of Inſtruction from the Examples of *Job* and *Elias*; which will encourage us to read it frequently.

The Firſt Chapter of the Firſt Epiſtle of St. *Peter*, wherein the Apoſtle treats of the Heavenly Inheritance, and of the Holineſs that muſt fit us for it: The Second, wherein we may read our Duty to the King, as Supreme; and unto Governors, as unto them that are ſent by him; and to all Men and Chriſtians: The Fifth, wherein there is a ſpecial Addreſs to the Clergy, and the beſt of Motives to perſuade them to their Duty, from the Promiſe of that Crown of Glory, which fadeth not away, invite us to a diligent Peruſal.

In

In the first Chapter of the Second Epistle, the Golden Chain of Graces, to be added to one another for the compleating a Christian: In the Second, the Examples of God's Justice, and of his Mercy: In the Third, the End of all things, and the Use to be made of it, well deserve to be often read and consider'd.

In the First Chapter of the First Epistle of St. *John*, the Illustrious Testimony given to Christian Religion, and the Denial of Sinless Perfection: In the Second, the Account of our Advocate with the Father; of the World, and of the Danger of loving it: In the Third, the Love of God to us, and the Love we ought to have for one another; of both which more in the 4th Chapter: In the Fifth, the Means of obtaining Victory over the World, and the great Doctrine of the Three that bear Record in Heaven; in whose Name, or into the Acknowledgment of whom, we are Baptized, call for our most serious Thoughts. Upon this last great Subject, let me recommend Bishop *Stillingfleet*'s Vindication of the Doctrine of the Trinity, *p.* 164, 165, *&c.*

εἰς τὸ ὄνομα. Matth. 28. 19.

The Epistle of St. *Jude* agrees with the 2d of St. *Peter*; and besides the terrible Examples of God's Wrath, has that Ancient Prophecy of *Enoch*, the Seventh from *Adam*, concerning the Day of Judgment; which is fitted to awaken the most secure and careless Sinners.

In the Book of the *Revelation* of St. *John*; the First Chapter, which describes our Lord's Coming; the Epistles to the Seven Churches in two next Chapters; the Account of the Day of Judgment in the 20th; of the Punishment of the Wicked, and of the glorious Reward of good Men

Men and Chriſtians, which follows, contains all I ſhall further offer under this Third Head.

The Fourth Method: That ſuch as really and neceſſarily want Leiſure, ſhould frequently read the Book of *Pſalms*, and the Epiſtles and Goſpels for the ſeveral Lord's Days, and other Feſtivals and Faſts.

In the Uſe of the *Pſalms*, we ſhall preſent to God divinely inſpir'd Prayers and Praiſes continually; and be fitted by admirable Inſtructions and Examples to offer them up.

In the Goſpels, there is a large Account of the Myſtery of our Redemption: In the Epiſtles, great Variety of Chriſtian Duties. The firſt [the Goſpels] being (as an Eminent Perſon hath obſerved) a Record of the Life and Death of our Bleſſed Saviour; the latter, Inſtructions for the Edification of the Church in Pious and Chriſtian Converſation. *Preface to a Collection of Offices or Forms of Prayer, in Caſes ordinary and extraordinary*, 8vo. Lond. 1658.

To the *Pſalms*, Epiſtles, and Goſpels, if Care be taken to add the Collects that are before theſe latter, and the Lord's Prayer; the ſhort Service will be ſo much the more compleat, and be the more likely to be advantageous to them, who becauſe they have not Time for more, ſhall think fit to uſe it.

The Fifth and laſt Method. In Order to Preparation for the Sacrament of our Lord's Supper; a Duty of very great Importance and Conſequence, and which ought to be of frequent Return; let me recommend that choice Collection out of the Scriptures of the Old and New Teſta-

ment,

ment, which the Church of *England* has directed and required to be read the Week before *Easter* Yearly; where we have Prophecies concerning our Lord's Sufferings; the Hiſtory of them at large in the Goſpel; the Inſtitution of that Bleſſed Sacrament, in the 1ſt Epiſtle to the *Corinthians*, Chapter the 11th; and proper Readings out of the Epiſtle to the *Philippians*, and to the *Hebrews*. All which are fit to inſtruct and affect us; to excite us to a Hatred of Sin; to provoke us to the Love of God the Father, and of his Bleſſed Son, who died for us; and to the Love of our Neighbours; to confirm and increaſe our Faith, and to ſtrengthen our Hope; and to encourage us *to run with Patience*, and Thankfulneſs, *the Race which is ſet before us.*

A Prayer to be uſed before Reading the Holy Scripture; being the Collect for the Second Sunday *in* Advent.

'BLeſſed Lord, who haſt cauſed all Holy Scri-
'ptures to be written for our Learning;
'Grant that we may in ſuch wiſe hear them, read,
'mark, learn, and inwardly digeſt them; that
'by Patience and Comfort of thy Holy Word,
'we may embrace and ever hold faſt the Bleſſed
'Hope of Everlaſting Life, which thou haſt given
'us in our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

Glory to God in the higheſt, and on Earth Peace, good Will towards Men.

FINIS.

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